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DOCUMENTS.

As the art of any period is made known to us not only by the works that remain, but also by the records of those that no longer exist, the publication of original documents is a most valuable department of an Archæological Review.

The following are the first of some additions to the Inventories of the artistic treasures possessed in the Middle Ages by the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome, which inventories were edited, a few years since, by MM. Müntz and Frothingham.[1]

GIFTS OF POPE NICHOLAS III (✝1280) TO THE BASILICA OF SAN PIETRO IN VATICANO.

Toward the middle of the XIII century, the Basilica of St. Peter had fallen into a deplorably ruinous condition. In 1276, Cardinal Giovanni Orsini, on being made arch-priest of St. Peter's, wrote to the canons expressing a desire to assist in restoring the church, and, when a number of men of importance were sent to him, to Viterbo, by the canons, a petition was drawn up to Pope John XXI for the reparation and enlargement of the Basilica. Shortly after, in 1277, Giovanni Orsini himself was made pope under the name of Nicholas III, and he immediately began to carry out his cherished plan of a thorough work of restoration, which his short pontificate did not allow him to finish, but left for his successor Boniface VIII.

The following inventory of his gifts to the Basilica in the *Libro dei Benefattori* show them to have been of especial magnificence and artistic value.[2]

[1] *Il Tesoro della Basilica di S. Pietro in Vaticano dal XIII al XV secolo. Con una scelta d'Inventarii inediti*, pubblicati ed annotati ad E. MÜNTZ e A. L. FROTHINGHAM, Jr.: Roma, 1883, *Arch. Rom. di Storia Patria.*

[2] After these inventories were in print, we received the *Revue de l'Art Chrêtien*, 1888, No. 3, containing an article by Mgr. BARBIER DE MONTAULT entitled *Inventaires de Saint-Pierre de Rome*, in which he makes certain additions to the inventories published by M. Müntz and myself. The first and earliest is this one of Nicholas III. The author, however, publishes not the text of this precious inventory, but only a French translation; and even this is very incomplete, for it omits about one-half the objects, notably all the sacred vestments. By reading, in the second paragraph, *duo basilica argenti*, instead of *duo bacilia argenti*, Mgr. Barbier de Montault has led himself into a difficulty of his own making, and he vainly attempts to explain what "two silver basilicas" (instead of "two silver basins") could mean. The notes which he appends to the other objects enumerated are interesting and instructive.

The other two documents which are here published are not mentioned by Mgr. de Montault in his paper.

Anno Dn̄i millesimo ducentesimo LXXX mense Augusti die XXII obiit sanctiss^e mem^e Dn̄s Nicolaus Papa Tertius natione Romanus de Domo Ursinorum, qui in Basilicā nostrā beneficiatos XXX instituit, et in eadem ad honorem Beati Nicolai altare erigi fecit quod propriis manibus consecravit, iuxta quod sepulturam suam elegit:

Cui altari crucem cum pede argenti, duo candelabra argenti, duo bacilia argenti, duo vascula argenti, unum thuribulum de argento, et duos calices argenti deauratos, unam naviculam argenti cum cocleari quae omnia ponderant XXVIII marchias et VII uncias de argento:

Necnon indumenta serica ad eiusdem altaris culturam, scilicet, duas planetas de samito rubeo, duas planetas de samito violato.

Item duas planetas, unam de samito albo cum frisio Anglicano, et aliam de diaspero albo.

Item dorsalia ac omnia sacerdotalia ornamenta eidem altari obtulit habundanter.

De eius pecunia propria et alia pecunia ipsius cura et sollicitudine nostre Basilice aquisita eadem Basilica duo castra aquisivit, etc.

Item contulit et hic Basilice nostre pannum unum ad aurum, de quo factum fuit unum dorsale pro altari maiori, et unum pulchrum pluviale ad ymagines sanctorum contextum de opere Anglicano.

Item contulit unum Tabernaculum argenti cum pisside aurea ad servandum corpus Christi in cena Dn̄i.

Item pixicem (sic) unam argenti ad hostias conservandas.

Item mitrem (sic) unam multis lapidibus ornatam.

Item annulum Pontificale aureum et sandalia cum caligis de samito.

Item cannulum argenti ad observandum corpus Christi a summo Pontifice.

Habuit etiam Basilica nostra de bonis eiusdem candelabra maiora argenti duo.

Item bacilia duo argenti.

Item unam cassulam argenti ad tenendum hostias, et alia ornamenta ad Altare Sanctae Mariae de Cancellis, necnon pluraque alia idem Sanctissimus Pater et Pontifex nostre Basilice prompta liberalitate donavit.[3]

[3] "In 1280 A. D., on the 22nd of August, died Pope Nicholas III of most holy memory, by birth a Roman of the Orsini family, who instituted in our Basilica thirty beneficiaries, and caused to be erected there in honor of St. Nicholas an altar which he consecrated with his own hands, and near which he chose to be buried:

"To which altar he offered profusely: a cross with foot of silver, two silver candelabra, two silver basins, two small silver vases, a silver censer and two silver-gilt chalices, a silver *navette* with its spoon: the whole weighing 28 marks and 7 ounces of silver: besides these, silk vestments for the service of the same altar, namely, two chasubles of red samite, and two chasubles of violet samite. *Item*, two chasubles, one of white samite with a border of English workmanship, and another of white *diasper*. *Item*, hangings and all other sacerdotal decorations for the same altar.

This list of gifts is remarkable, above all others in the series of donations to the Basilica, for the large number of objects in silver, doubtless of artistic workmanship and probably in many cases enamelled. Some can be identified in the general inventories of later date. The only hint as to the style of the embroidered ecclesiastical robes is, in the case of a *pluviale* and the border of a chasuble, said to be *de opere Anglicano* (*cf.* Michel, *Recherches sur le commerce, etc., des étoffes de soie, etc.:* Paris, 1850).

GIFTS MADE BY CARDINAL FRANCESCO DE' TEBALDESCHI[4] IN 1378 TO THE BASILICA OF SAN PIETRO IN VATICANO.

The following document also is taken from the MS. *Libro dei Benefattori* of the ancient Basilica of St. Peter in Rome, still preserved in the sacristy.[5]

In nomine Dn̄i Amen. Anno natīs Dn̄i M°CCC°LXXVIII°, mense Sept. die VI. Obiit bone memorie Rev'endissimus pater et dn̄s dn̄s Franciscus de Thebaldescis, tit. Sc̄ē Sabine p̄sbiter Card. prior et concanonicus n̄r qui n̄ram basilicam ml'tum dilexit. Nam juxta majus altare cōstrui et erigi fecit cappellam suam in qua rẹquiescit q̄ vocatur altare de ossibus apl'orum ī qua īstituit et ordinavit tres p̄sbr̄os clericos chori ultra nūm. vigīti clīcorum īstitutum p. fe. re. dn̄m Bonifatium papam VIII p. quos voluit p̄petuis tp̄ibus

"With his own money and with other funds procured for our Basilica by his care and thoughtfulness, he purchased for the same Basilica two villages, *etc.*

"He also presented to our Basilica a piece of gold cloth out of which was made a covering for the high altar, and a beautiful cope woven with figures of saints, of English workmanship. He also presented a silver tabernacle with a gold pyx, in which to keep the body of Christ in the Lord's Supper. *Item,* a silver pyx to contain the consecrated wafers. *Item,* a mitre ornamented with many stones. *Item,* a gold Pontifical ring, and sandals with stockings of samite. *Item,* a silver tube to be used by the supreme Pontiff in partaking of the body of Christ.

"The Basilica also received of his property two large silver candelabra. *Item,* two silver basins. *Item,* a silver casket for keeping consecrated wafers, and other ornaments for the altar of Sancta Maria de Cancellis:

"Besides which this most holy Father and Pope, with ready liberality, gave many other things to our Basilica."

[4] The following notice is given in TORRIGIO (*Le Sacre Grotte Vaticane:* Roma, 1639 p. 234) from a MS. of the archives: *Franciscus de Tebaldescis Rom. Regionis Parionis, Jacobi de Stephanescis Card. S. Georgii ex sorore nepos, ex Priore Canonicorum S. Petri S. R. E. Presb. Card. de S. Petro nuncupatus, tit. S. Sabinae ab Urbano V. creatus, tenuit Canonicatum annos 34, scilicet ante assumptionem suam ad Cardinalatum annos 24, et post assumptionem usque ad obitum annos 10. Sacellum ossibus Apostolorum Principum dicatum prope aram maximam, pulcherrimo ornatu pecunia ab se testamento legata, aedificavit, in eoque lapidem porphyreticum, super quem ossa SS. Apostolorum Petri et Pauli a Silvestro Papa divisa fuerunt, magnificentius collocavit. Cf. Il Tesoro,* p. 71.

[5] We print here all of the document that has any importance for art, although the beginning has been given by TORRIGIO (*Grotte Vaticane*), and the sentence regarding the three silver statuettes is printed in the Appendix to the above-quoted *Il Tesoro della Basilica, etc.* (pp. 133–34): the statuettes are described pp. 52, 88, 104.